



LOUISIANA SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 4.19.12

**CONTACT: SEN. COMMUNICATION
OFFICE**

PHONE: 225.342.9737

**STATE SENATORS PERRY, CORTEZ & WARD NOMINATED
TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL "EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM"**

Louisiana Senate President John A. Alario, Jr. recently nominated Senators Jonathan "JP" Perry, Page Cortez and Rick Ward, III to participate in the national "The Emerging Leaders Program." The program, sponsored by the non-profit, non-partisan State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) and the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, is designed to enhance the leadership potential and vision of policymakers judged to be potential future state leaders.

"It is my distinct pleasure to have this opportunity to nominate these three Senators for this honor," Senate President Alario said. "They are all dedicated public servants and bring valuable ideas and varied perspectives to the table."

Sen. Perry is serving his first full term in the Senate, having previously served a partial term in the House of Representatives. "I am excited about the opportunity to participate in the important national seminar and look forward to the exchange of ideas with other legislative and state leaders."

It is a sentiment shared by Sen. Cortez who also previously served in the House of Representatives and is serving his first term in the Senate. "I am extremely honored to be nominated to join other public servants from across the country for what I expect to be a lively, productive discussion about legislative leadership, values, ethics and more."

For Sen. Ward, this term marks his first service in the Louisiana State Legislature. "As the new kid on the block so-to-speak, this is a great honor for me and I appreciate the confidence President Alario has shown in me. I plan to take advantage of every opportunity to discuss policy and leadership issues with my colleagues and professors at the meeting."

To participate in "The Emerging Leaders Program", legislators must be nominated by their peers and have served no more than five years in the legislature. The 2012 program is scheduled for Monday, July 9 to Thursday, July 12 at the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville. For those chosen to participate, costs are covered by SLLF.

###